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Thesis Title:

The neuro-muscular and musculo-skeletal characterization of children with joint hypermobility.

Supervisors:

Assoc. Prof. Graham Kerr (Principal)

Dr Charles Worringham (Associate)

Citation:

This project identified that otherwise healthy children with joint hypermobility (double jointedness) exhibited high muscle tone, collapsed feet in stance and poor barefoot balance in stance and gait. These functional deficits were not attributed to developmental delays, as immediate improvement occurred in balance and gait with the use of foot orthoses. The improvement was attributed to improved sensory information which contributed to more efficient organization of control of posture. The project identified joint hypermobility (which affects approximately 10% of the population) as a condition which must be considered in studies of balance and gait in children. These findings have implications for the clinical identification and management of the condition.